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**USTR WELCOMES FIRST SHIPMENT
OF SWEET CHERRIES TO CHINA**

U.S. Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky today welcomed the first shipment of U.S. sweet cherry exports to China as another step forward in the Administration's on-going efforts to open the Chinese market.

"China's first importation of sweet cherries is a hopeful step in our on-going efforts to increase market access for U.S. agriculture exports," said Ambassador Barshefsky. "This development follows the Administration's progress in gaining access to China's market last month for table grape producers. We will continue to press forward on the full range of market access issues in China from phytosanitary restrictions on agricultural exports to telecommunications and other products and professional services."

The first shipment of U.S. sweet cherries from Washington State arrived in China on June 20, 1997. USDA estimates the sweet cherry market could be worth \$8 to \$12.5 million over the next three to five years. U.S. sweet cherry market exports bound for China are expected to expand from Washington State to Idaho, Oregon and California.